

# PM: Critics practise double standards

SUN 28 OCT 2003

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad hit back yesterday against those who condemned him for saying Jews rule the world but were silent when Prophet Muhammad was called a terrorist.

"Are we not allowed to say we are angry with the Jews? Are the Jews some kind of creature who cannot be condemned in any way?" he asked when questioned about the fierce international criticism of his remarks.

He said he knew a lot of Jewish people and was not against them, the Bernama news agency reported.

"I am against those Jews who kill Muslims and the Jews who support the killers of Muslims," he said.

Mahathir said he did not care if the Europeans, who were among his major critics, did not like him.

"I have European friends. But

when they do something wrong, I am going to tell them that it is wrong.

"You say you are not under the influence of Jews and yet when I criticise the Jews, the whole of the European Union wants to condemn me.

"But when somebody condemns the Muslims, calls my Prophet (Muhammad) terrorist and all that, did the European Union say anything? Which shows that they are under the thumb of the Jews."

US Christian fundamentalist preacher Jerry Falwell called Muhammad a "terrorist" in a television interview in September last year, sparking outrage in the Muslim world.

More recently, a US general was criticised for casting the war on terror as a Christian struggle against Satan, but retains his post as deputy under-secretary of defence for intelligence.

Lt-Gen William Boykin recalled in a speech how a top lieutenant of Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid, Osman Otto, boasted on CNN he would never be caught because Allah would protect him.

"Well, you know what?" Boykin was quoted as saying. "I knew my God was bigger than his. I knew my God was a real God and his was an idol."

Asked why some Muslim leaders did not openly express support over his remarks about Jews, Mahathir said possibly they were afraid action would be taken against them.

"They are much weaker than we are. They may have more money but they are still dependent upon the Europeans," he said.

"Because of that, they are reluctant to make their voices heard but privately of course they will support." – AFP